

Turkish Director Bemoans Art Row

The Turkish Information Center director is upset over newspaper reports of the alleged arbitrary failure of an artist from Torrance's sister city Konya in Turkey to exhibit his paintings locally as agreed.

In a letter sent to the HERALD, Nejet Sonmez, of the information center located in San Francisco, calls the newspaper reports erroneous and suggests he has become the "scapegoat for this tempest in

a teapot." A representative of an artists co-op group in Redondo Beach already has offered their new gallery on Pacific avenue as a site for a showing of the pictures any time in the future if they are returned.

Information center Director Nejet's letter to the HERALD follows:

"I should like to clear up a number of serious misunderstandings which have recently

come to my attention regarding the exhibit of Turkish miniatures which were to have been shown in Torrance and Redondo Beach last month.

"I refer specifically to the article of July 31 published by a Redondo paper and the '1-2 punch delivered by the Turkish Consulate in San Francisco'.

"As was stated in the press release and the brochure describing the show, which were

sent to Torrance City to City Committee on June 22, this exhibition was being presented by the AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST through their San Francisco office at 323 Geary Street. The Turkish Information Office (there is no Turkish Consulate in San Francisco) cooperated with this organization by arranging all publicity for the San Francisco showing and offering the use of our S.F. of-

fice for the local exhibition.

"IN VIEW of the Torrance-Konya affiliation we suggested to the American Friends of the Middle East that the show be offered to Torrance for showing in that area if possible. It following the Santointaonnto was agreed and the collection of paintings was shipped to Torrance on June 22, immediately following the San Francisco showing. This office asked the American Friends of the Middle East if there were a specific date when the paintings should be returned to San Francisco and were told there was not.

"Approximately ONE MONTH

LATER on July 21, the Turkish Information Office in San Francisco received a telephone call from the office of the American Friends of the Middle East requesting that the exhibit be returned immediately for shipment to the artist in New York. As the show had been in the Torrance area for FOUR WEEKS it was assumed, by the American Friends of the Middle East and by this office as well, that there had been ample time for exhibit purposes. The Turkish Information Office transmitted this request to Torrance City to City Committee and the paintings were returned.

"The decision regarding the

return of the paintings was NOT made by this office and we deeply regretted the resulting cancellation of the show in Torrance, and Redondo Beach.

"As to the 'mystery surrounding the recall of the paintings,' and the suggestion that it was an attempt to avoid customs duties, may I add that the great majority of the paintings had already been sold in the United States. However, before being sent to their owners it was understandably necessary for the artist to examine them for possible damage during their tour and work out the final arrangements for forwarding them to their owners before his departure for Turkey. Incidentally, the artist, Dr. A. Suheyli Unver was not 'recalled to Turkey immediately' but having completed his visit to America as a guest of the U.S. State Department, he departed for his homeland as scheduled.

"I CAN WELL understand the distress of your community leaders who had obviously put so much of their time and effort into a show only to find it cancelled at the last minute. However, I do not appreciate the accusations towards my office or towards any other rep-

representative of government for which we were responsible. I am concerned over this matter and wish to size our hope that hibitions of Turkish be made available for to your good citizens future date."

Bible School Continues

Vacation Bible School Lutheran Church of the rection will continue t Friday, Aug. 21, accord Jean Johns, secretary church.

The program began M August 10. A registrati of \$1.00 will defray th of materials. The scho be in session from 9: 12:00 daily.

Trees Cut

Officials of the Torran Recreation Department reported that several small trees at the McMaster Park in North Torrance were cut down over the weekend.



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